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Bart DeWolf Ph.D.
bdewolf@rcn.com

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Report of Wassataquoik Exploratory Trips, 2016

Submitted by Bart DeWolf, Maine Woods Forever

Trips: May 8-9, August 10, 2016

Personnel: Susan Adams (with backup from Mark Adams at Lunksoos Camps), Bill Duffy, Elaine and Eric Hendrickson, Ben Severance, Bart DeWolf

Background: The Wassataquoik was a hotbed of activity in the 19th and early 20th centuries, activity that is hard to imagine given its current state of quietude.¹ There were extensive logging operations from about 1841 until 1914, operations that required logging camp buildings, numerous dams, and construction of a tote road, known as the Wassataquoik Tote Road, along the north side of the river. The Dacey and Robar dams were located along the stretch of the Wassataquoik that is now part of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. The operations at times required hundreds of men and horses in the woods from winter through early spring when the long logs and later the pulp wood logs were sent down the river to the mills in Bangor (Fig. 1). The writer Edmund Ware Smith has called the Wassataquoik log drives “the most difficult and dramatic of Maine’s lumbering history (Smith 1958).”

Visitors came during the summers to take advantage of the Wassataquoik Tote Road to approach Katahdin. Along this road passed almost all the parties visiting the mountain between about 1841 and the early 1920s when the Roaring Brook Road first became passable for automobiles all the way to Roaring Brook. Two places along the river included in the new National Monument – the Upper and Lower Katahdin crossings – were used to cross the Wassataquoik en route to Katahdin Lake and Katahdin beyond.

Objectives: During the summer of 2016, we made several trips to the Wassataquoik valley, two of which are reported on here. Our goal for these trips was to find and follow the old tote road which we knew from personal experience was still visible in places, and to locate and explore the four historic sites mentioned above: the Dacey and Robar dam sites, and the Upper and Lower Katahdin crossings. The four sites are all located between the Penobscot East Branch and Robar Brook along roughly 10 miles of river. Besides exploring the tote road and locating the sites, we hoped to search for remnants or artifacts (e.g., dam cribwork, tools, cellar holes, even gravesites) without disturbing them, that might bear witness to all that activity. If some interesting things could be located, then besides designating them for protection, it would be worthwhile to consider creating an historic trail with interpretive signs and/or a guidebook for future visitors.

Preparation: Much time was spent during the preceding winter researching the sites and the old tote road using historical records, maps, and photographs. This research produced a lengthy Wassataquoik bibliography and a timeline which have been appended to the end of this report. We generated preliminary GPS coordinates for the four sites, and Bill Duffy helped locate historic roads and trails by georeferencing some of the older maps using a GIS system (see Figs. 2 and 3 and Table 1, which have been updated based on field data from our trips).

¹ Myron Avery and others have provided a vivid history of all this activity. See especially Avery (1929b), Hakola (1981) and Neff (2006) in the bibliography at the end.

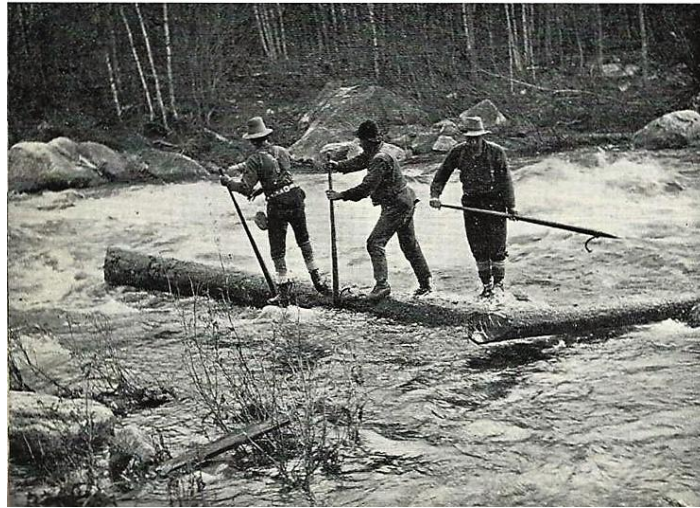


Figure 1. Long log driving on Wassataquoik Stream, George H. Hallowell, 1900, Myron Avery Collection.

Explorations: On Sunday, May 8, before leaf-out, five of us – Susan Adams, Bill Duffy, Eric and Elaine Hendrickson, and Bart DeWolf – walked and biked along the logging road on the south side of the Wassataquoik from just above Katahdin Brook to the vicinity of the Robar Dam site, stopping to identify and flag the locations of the Lower and Upper Katahdin Crossings based on the maps and photos we brought along. The next day, Bill Duffy and Bart DeWolf biked into the north side of the Wassataquoik along logging roads from the East Branch and explored the Dacey Dam site and the old tote road.

A second trip was made later in the season on Wednesday, August 10.² There were five of us on that occasion also, but Ben Severance joined us in place of Bill Duffy. The water was low and we were able to wade across the river at the Upper Katahdin Crossing to explore the north side of the Robar Dam site. Later in the day we did a more thorough exploration of the Dacey Dam site.

Results:

Wassataquoik Tote Road

History

The Wassataquoik Tote Road was in active use during logging operations from about 1841 to the early 1920s. In addition, many visitors used it to approach Katahdin from the north, or to reach Katahdin Lake and approach the mountain from the east (Fig. 4).

It extended from near the Wassataquoik headwaters in what is now Baxter State Park to the East Branch of the Penobscot. It should be noted that except for the years before about 1880, most of

² Between the first and second group trips, Susan Adams and Connie Barnes located the Dacey Dam site that we visited on August 10th. Later in August Eric and Elaine Hendrickson explored the north side of the river at the Lower Katahdin Crossing, followed the length of the Wassataquoik Tote Road, and explored the plunge pool at the Dacey Dam site.

the logging took place in the upper valley of the Wassataquoik, and the river was used mainly for transport of the timber.

Notable visitors using the road included Edward Everett Hale (author of *Man Without a Country*) and William Francis Channing in 1845; mountain guide Rev. Marcus Keep in 1846 and in the following years; botanist Aaron Young in 1847; artist Frederick E. Church in 1855 and subsequently; geologist Charles H. Hitchcock and agriculturalist Ezekiel Holmes in 1861; University of Maine president Merritt C. Fernald in 1873 and 1874; Theodore Roosevelt in 1879; botanist Merritt L. Fernald in 1900; and a party including Percival Baxter in 1920. The Appalachian Mountain Club held their August camps in the area in 1887 and again in 1916 and approached via the Wassataquoik (Hakola 1981; Neff 2006).

Most of the first five miles of the route above the East Branch follows relatively recent logging roads as well as a portion of the International Appalachian Trail and are in good shape. Beyond that it is overgrown and obscure.

What we found

We found remnants of the old road in many places (Figs. 5 – 7)³, including some stonework and gravel pits. It was harder to find signs of the road when it passed through wetlands. At one spot along the IAT portion of the route, we encountered a rusty lantern base which looked rather old (Fig. 8). At another place nearby there was an old iron wagon wheel rim that had been looped around a tree branch a long time ago (Figs. 9 and 10), a reminder that the road had been used for wagon transport (Fig. 11).

Dacey Dam

History

The Dacey Dam dates from the Tracey and Love long-log spruce operation of 1883 and after. It was rebuilt during the Draper pulpwood operation of 1910, and was used as an access route for the AMC August camp of 1916 (see Figs. 12 and 13). It washed out in a flood in 1919 (Avery 1928b, pp. 146, 147; Avery 1929b, pp. 84, 87, and 91; Dawson 1919, p. 354). This is very close to where the IAT crosses the river at present, and is about where travel upriver along the old tote road becomes a bushwhack.

What we found

While we weren't able to find much in May, the lower water levels of mid-summer revealed a number of dam remnants: wooden cribbing (Figs. 14 – 16), old cables, an impressive gate (?) chain found on an island in mid-river (Fig. 17), and a large iron spike in a rock on the south side. There was also a plunge pool below the dam site to receive the initial release of logs.

Lower Katahdin Crossing

History

This was the earliest crossing for routes to Katahdin and was located below Orin Falls, but above where the IAT currently crosses. It was pioneered by the Reverend Marcus Keep when he

³ Photos taken by Bart DeWolf unless noted.

climbed the mountain in 1846 and then led a group ascent of Katahdin in 1847. At that time, his party crossed by raft, but subsequent parties waded. In June of 1848, Keep returned and marked a route from the Lower Katahdin Crossing to Katahdin Lake and on to the mountain beyond, subsequently known as the Keep Path. It was in active use until the 1870s when lumbering operations necessitated changes in the route (Hakola 1981, p. 17; Avery 1928b, pp. 135-141; Neff 2006, pp. 34-40, 164). About this time, Lang and Jones started operating a sporting camp at Katahdin Lake and revived the trail from the Wassataquoik to the Lake. According to Hakola, the Lang and Jones trail was used by the artist Frederic Church's party in 1877 and was probably the route of Theodore Roosevelt's party in 1879 (Hakola 1981, pp. 33, 34; Neff 2006, pp. 56-60, 189, 190). If so, this would seem to be the location where Roosevelt lost his shoe while crossing the Wassataquoik which forced him to use moccasins for the rest of his Katahdin climb (Vietze 2010, p. 55; Kohn 2015, p. 100).

Near the Lower Wassataquoik Crossing were logging camps at various times, notably the Halfway Camp (also known as the Parker House) established around 1883 by the Tracey and Love operation (Neff 2006, p. 95). This was apparently rebuilt by Draper in 1910 (aka Draper's Halfway Camp or Draper's Swing Camps), though it was flooded out by an ice jam in 1912 (Avery 1929b, p. 91). It seems likely that this was also the "half way camps" where the 1920 Percival Baxter party stopped for lunch.

What we found

We were able to locate with fairly high probability the location of the Lower Katahdin Crossing. The view from the river shore was very similar to the view from a photo in the Myron Avery collection taken in about 1910 (Fig. 19, 20). That plus the fact that the river seemed eminently wadeable, that we found an old road leading south from the river's edge (Fig. 21), and the discovery of what was possibly Teddy Roosevelt's lost boot (Fig. 22)⁴ led us to conclude that we were probably in the right spot.⁵

Upper Katahdin Crossing

History:

This crossing was located above Orin Falls about a mile below Robar Brook. It marks the approach route used by the AMC for their August camp of 1887, since previous routes (the Keep Path and the Lang and Jones Trail) were no longer passable partly because of a great fire in 1884. The AMC hired Clarence Peavey to create a trail system including a route – dubbed the Appalachian Trail – from the Wassataquoik to the northwest corner of Katahdin Lake where their camp was based, and trails up into the Katahdin Great Basin and on to the summit (Hakola 1981, pp. 38, 39; Avery 1928b, pp. 146, 147). This trail system had a short life span, as it had reportedly become impassable by 1896 (Waldo 1896, p. 190). In 1916, the AMC had another August Camp at Katahdin, utilizing a trail system cut for them by Madison Tracey. To get to Katahdin Lake, they could use either the Upper Katahdin Crossing or a route along the Katahdin Brook (Hakola 1981, p. 41). The Baxter party of 1920 most likely crossed the Wassataquoik here

⁴ Ha ha.

⁵ A later visit by Eric Hendrickson to the north side of the river found where the Lower Katahdin Crossing joined the Wassataquoik Tote Road and what might have been the Parker House location.

en route to Katahdin Lake (Hakola 1981, p. 41; [Staples] 1920, p. 3). There were lumber camps near here also. Avery mentions an abandoned camp on the south side of the Wassataquoik, and a clearing on the north side where Nine Mile Camp stood. The location of this crossing is shown rather precisely on the USGS Katahdin topographic map of 1930, making it easy to locate.

What we found:

We had no historical photos of this crossing, but once again we found a wadeable place in the river (Fig. 23) and an old road leading back from the river's edge. Searching the woods in the vicinity of the old road we found some cooking pots and what looked like an old logging sledge runner partially buried (Figs 24, 25).

Robar Dam

History

The Robar Dam⁶ was a large structure (see Fig. 26). Once built, it would seem to have been a reasonable way for hikers to cross the Wassataquoik, but there isn't mention of a trail system connecting to it on the south side. Nor have we been able to find out how long it was in existence. There were also lumber camps located here (as can be seen in Fig. 26), notably Roger's Halfway Camp,⁷ aka Robar's Camp, which probably dates from the Ayer and Rogers operation of 1891 to 1901 (Avery 1928b, p. 147). Robar's Camp and Robar Brook are named for Israel Robar, who lived here more-or-less as a hermit in the 1880s and 1890s (Neff 2006, pp. 99, 100). The Robar Brook had a trail along its east side that was used by William Tracy in the 1920s and 1930s to transport guests from a sporting camp on the Little Spring Brook near the East Branch to Tracy's Camps on Russell Pond in what would later become Baxter State Park.

What we found:

After some searching, we found a match between a group of rocks located on the north side of the river with rocks shown in the historical photograph of the dam which gave us our first clue that we were in the right place (Figs. 27 – 29). Along the shore at the site we found stone and wooden cribbing (Fig. 30, 31). The sheared off faces of some of the boulders in the river below the dam site suggested that blasting had been used to facilitate the log drives. Searching on the north side of the river, we found several foundation holes, a possible chimney hole, barrel bands, a square of rocks, and the bottom portion of an old bean pot (Figs. 32, 33).

Summary: The history of the Wassataquoik includes extensive logging and numerous log drives as well as visitations by native Americans, early explorers, scientists, and adventurers. In our trips during the summer of 2016, we found remnants of that history: the sites of old dams and logging camps, traces of the old roads and trails, and the places where the Reverend Marcus Keep, Frederick Church, Teddy Roosevelt, Governor Baxter and many others crossed the river on their trips to Katahdin. It will be worthwhile to consider how to protect this history and bring it to the attention of visitors to the new National Monument, perhaps by creating a trail with interpretive signs and/or a guidebook for future visitors.

⁶ Built in 1883 by the Tracey and Love operation according to Neff (2006, p. 95), and/or 1893 by the Ayer and Rogers operation according to Avery (1928b, p. 147).

⁷ Not to be confused with Draper's Halfway Camp, aka Draper's Swing Camps, at the Lower Katahdin Crossing.

The Wassataquoik Stream runs through a wild and beautiful part of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. It hides well the turbulent history of its past. The words of Myron Avery written in 1929 (Avery 1929b) seem almost as applicable today as when he wrote them:

The Wassataquoik of to-day presents a curious contrast. It is entirely deserted and abandoned.... Bared rocks, a burned soil, a scraggly growth of “pople” and birch – the aftermath of two terrific fires – an old field or two, ruined dams and tumbling down camps and an overgrown road are the mute and unconvincing records of its story. From the wilderness to the wilderness again, another life cycle of the Wassataquoik is complete.

Table 1. Coordinates of historic Wassataquoik sites (updated as a result of our trip).

WAYPOINT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	EASTING	NORTHING	COMMENT
1	45.91927	-68.69099	523962	5085124	Dacey Dam
2	45.94197	-68.72547	521280	5087637	Lower Katahdin Crossing
3	45.95699	-68.76353	518325	5089296	Upper Katahdin Crossing
4	45.96391	-68.77156	517700	5090063	Robar Dam
	(WGS 84)		(19 T)		

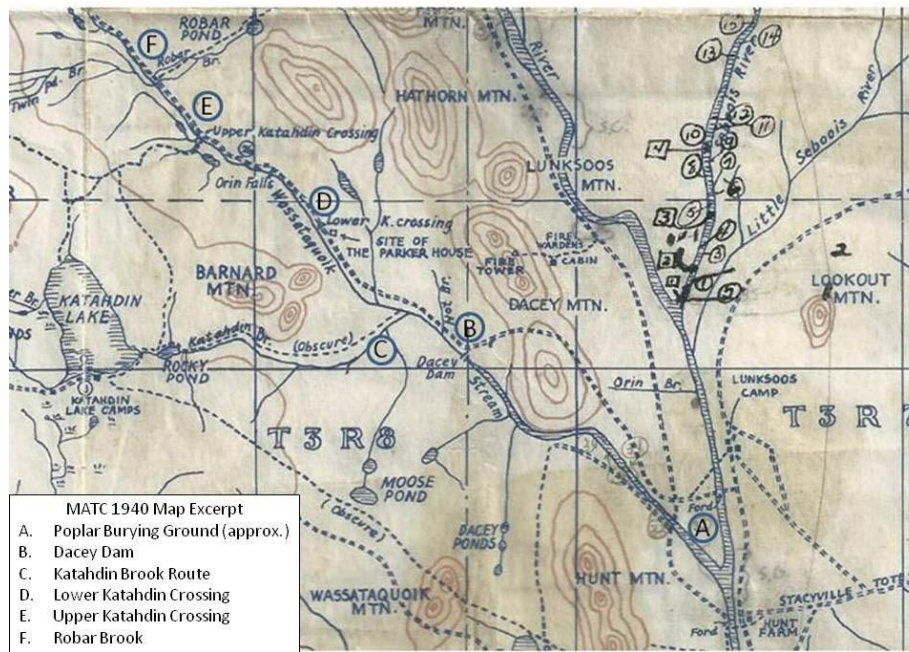


Figure 2. Historic Wassataquoik sites from MATC 1940 map.

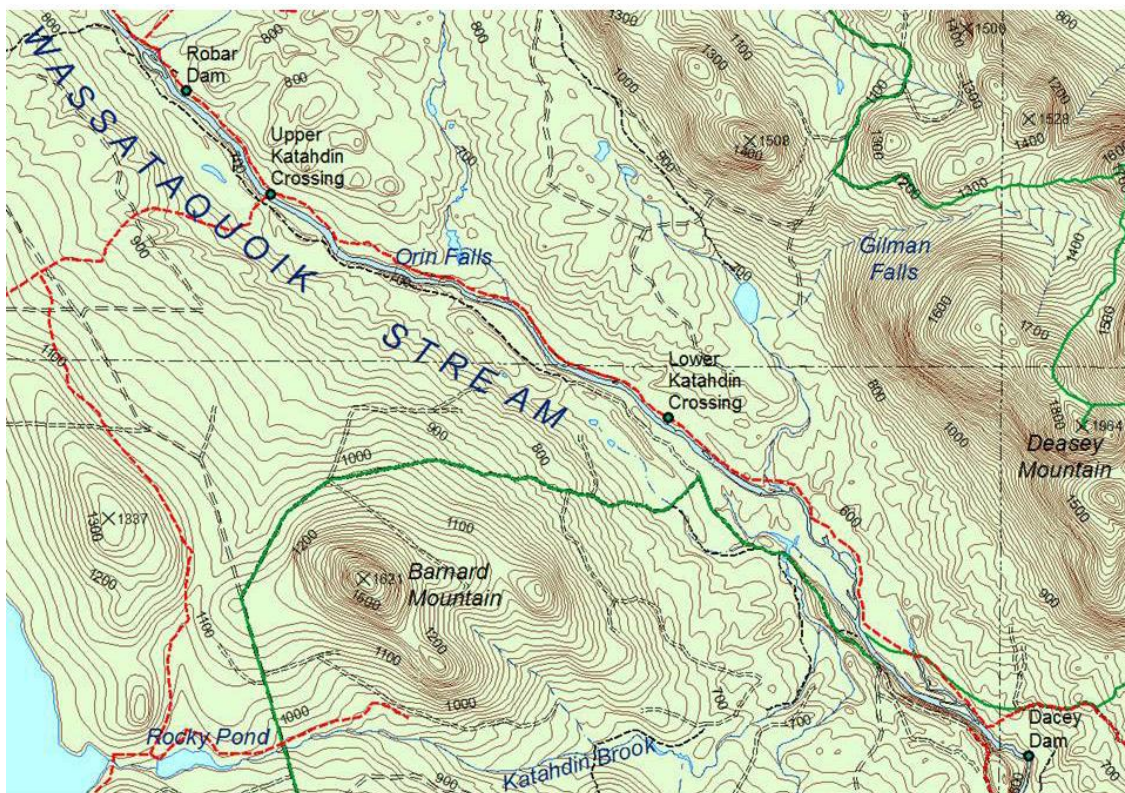


Figure 3. Modern map showing four historic Wassataquoik sites, old roads and trails (red), and the current IAT (green).



Figure 4. Wassataquoik Tote Road above Draper Half-way Camps, Myron Avery Collection.



Figure 5. Traces of the old Wassataquoik Tote Road.



Figure 6. Traces of the old Wassataquoik Tote Road.



Figure 7. Traces of the old Wassataquoik Tote Road.



Figure 8. Old lantern found along the route of the Wassataquoik Tote Road.



Figure 9. Old wagon wheel rim found along the route of the Wassataquoik Tote Road.



Figure 10. Tree growing through old wagon wheel rim found along the route of the Wassataquoik Tote Road.



Figure 11. Wassataquoik Tote Road, 1886, AMC Collection.



Figure 12. Dacey Dam, Draper operations, Myron Avery Collection.



Figure 13. Holding piers, Dacey Dam, Draper operations, Myron Avery Collection.



Figure 14. Current view of the Dacey Dam site with wooden cribbing remnant.



Figure 15. Wooden cribbing at the Dacey Dam site.



Figure 16. Wooden cribbing at the Dacey Dam site.



Figure 17. Possible gate chain on the ground at the Dacey Dam site.



Figure 18. Spike in rock at Dacey Dam site.



Figure 19. Draper's Half-way Camps (Parker House) at Lower Katahdin Crossing, ca. 1910, Myron Avery Collection.



Figure 20. Current view at Lower Katahdin Crossing, Bill Duffy photo.



Figure 21. Remnants of old road at Lower Katahdin Crossing.



Figure 22. Teddy Roosevelt's lost boot (?).



Figure 23. Probable location of the Upper Katahdin Crossing.



Figure 24. Possible old logging sledge runner in nearby woods at Upper Katahdin Crossing.



Figure 25. Logging sledge (<http://www.forestryforum.com>).



Figure 26. Robar Dam, Gray Herbarium Library Archives.



Figure 27. Current view of rocks on the north side of the Wassataquoik at the Robar Dam site.



Figure 28. Blended view showing the current rocks superimposed on the old photo by Bill Duffy.



Figure 29. Rocks on the north side of the Wassataquoik at the Robar Dam site.



Figure 30. Stone cribbing at the Robar Dam site.



Figure 31. Wooden cribbing at the Robar Dam site.



Figure 32. Part of an old bean pot found near the Robar Dam site.



Figure 33. Bottom of the old bean pot.

Wassataquoik Bibliography

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Maps

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USGS topos:
1:62,500

Katahdin, 1930, 1949 (shows Wassataquoik Tote Road, Robar Brook Trail, Katahdin Brook Trail, Clarence Peavey AMC trails including what is probably the Upper Katahdin Crossing). Stacyville, 1953 (shows Dacey Dam, Wassataquoik Tote Road). The Traveler, 1955 (shows Wassataquoik Tote Road, Old City Camps).

1:24,000

Deasey Mountain, 1989 (Wassataquoik Tote Road to R7-R8 township line, lower part of Katahdin Brook Trail).

Katahdin Lake, 1988.

AMC maps:

1950 (shows Wassataquoik Tote Road upriver from Lower Katahdin Crossing, Upper Katahdin Crossing, Clarence Peavey AMC trails, Robar Brook Trail).

1961 (shows Dacey Dam and the Wassataquoik Tote Road up river from Dacey Dam, parts of the Clarence Peavey AMC trails, Robar Brook Trail).

1984 (shows Dacey Dam and the Wassataquoik Tote Road up river from Dacey Dam, Clarence Peavey AMC trails, Robar Brook Trail).

MATC maps:

1938 (shows Dacey Dam, Wassataquoik Tote Road, Katahdin Brook Trail, Lower Katahdin Crossing, Parker House site, Upper Katahdin Crossing, Nine-Mile Camp site, Clarence Peavey AMC trails, Robar Brook Trail).

1940 (shows Dacey Dam, Wassataquoik Tote Road, Katahdin Brook Trail, Lower Katahdin Crossing, Parker House site, Upper Katahdin Crossing, Clarence Peavey AMC trails, Robar Brook Trail).

Other maps:

1928 (shows Wassataquoik Tote Road, Katahdin Brook Trail, Halfway Camp at Lower Katahdin Crossing?, Upper Katahdin Crossing, Clarence Peavey AMC trails, Robar Camp, Robar Brook Trail).

Mid-30s? (shows Dacey Dam, Wassataquoik Tote Road, Lower Katahdin Crossing, Trappers Camp, Upper Katahdin Crossing, Clarence Peavey AMC trails, Robar Brook Trail).

Avery's map from Appalachia

1928 (shows Dacey Dam, Wassataquoik Tote Road, Katahdin Brook Trail, Lower Katahdin Crossing, Draper's Swing Camps, Parker House Site, Upper Katahdin Crossing, Clarence Peavey AMC trails, Roger's Halfway Camp, Robar Camp site, Robar Dam site, Robar Brook Trail).

Photographs

Digital Maine

<http://digitalmaine.com/avery/>

http://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/bert_call/

Wassataquoik Timeline

- 1820 – Maine becomes a state.
- 1825 – Monument Line boundary survey crossed the Seboeis, East Branch, and Wassataquoik along T3-T4 town line (Joseph C. Norris Sr. and son).
- 1835 (approx.) – William Harmon Hunt built a farm on the East Branch, about one mile below the Wassataquoik confluence. It was connected to Stacyville via a rough road.
- 1835 (approx.) – Hiram Dacey built a farm at the site of Lunksoos Camps, approximately two miles north of the Hunt's Farm.
- 1837 – Charles Thomas Jackson, Maine's first state geologist, stayed at Hunt's Farm on an exploratory trip up the East Branch.
- 1837 – Extensive fire burned through the Wassataquoik valley, though the exact extent is unknown.
- 1838 – Ezekiel Holmes conducted a survey up the East Branch and passed Hunt's Farm.
- 1841 (approx.) – Lumbermen began taking white pine out of the Wassataquoik drainage, building the Wassataquoik tote road in the process. The road eventually extended west along the north side of the Wassataquoik all the way to its junction with the south branch in what is currently Baxter State Park.
- 1845 – Edward Everett Hale and William Francis Channing made the first recorded ascent of Katahdin's northern peaks from the east (except for the boundary line survey). They stayed at Hunt's Farm and travelled up the Wassataquoik.
- 1846 – Rev. Marcus Rodman Keep and James H. Haines made a partial ascent of Katahdin via Hunt's Farm, the Wassataquoik, Katahdin Lake, and a slide on the south side of Katahdin's east ridge (now known as the Keep Ridge).
- 1847 – Dr. Aaron Young conducted a botanical expedition to Mt. Katahdin via Hunt's Farm and the Wassataquoik.
- 1847 – Marcus Keep led a group of seven to the summit of Katahdin via the Wassataquoik, Katahdin Lake, and the south slide.
- 1848 – Keep Path between the Wassataquoik and Katahdin Lake was marked out.
- 1849 – Marcus Keep married Hannah Taylor. They spent their honeymoon climbing Katahdin.
- 1851 or 1852 – Rev. John Todd climbed Katahdin via the Keep Path.
- 1853 – Frederick E. Church visited Hunt's Farm.
- 1853 – William L. Jones ascended Katahdin via the Keep Path.
- 1855 – Rev. Thomas Wentworth Higginson climbed Katahdin via the Keep Path in the company of five women and others from his church. He wrote an account from the point of view of one of the women, though he later admitted to having written it.
- 1855 – Frederick E. Church visits Katahdin Lake for the first time (Neff 2006, p. 130).
- 1856 – Rev. Joseph Blake, a botanist, climbed Katahdin for the via the Wassataquoik in the company of Marcus Keep. He had climbed the mountain previously (in 1836) from the south.
- 1859 – The Maine legislature granted Keep a 200-acre parcel at the outlet of Katahdin Lake.
- 1861 – Hitchcock and Holmes survey climbed Katahdin via the Wassataquoik guided by Marcus Keep.

- 1873, 1874 - Merritt C. Fernald led an altitude measuring and botanical climb of Katahdin.
- 1874 (approx.) – Lang and Jones path cut a path from Dacey Dam to Katahdin Lake and beyond. This path was used by Witherle in 1881 and 1882, by Church's party in 1877, and was probably also Theodore Roosevelt's route in 1879. Lang and Jones also operated the first sporting camp on Katahdin Lake, built in 1879 or 1880 (Neff 2006, p. 190).
- 1874 (approx.) – Hunt's Farm acquired by C. R. Patterson.
- 1877 – Frederic E. Church and other artists visited Katahdin Lake and the Great Basin, approaching via the Wassataquoik. Church had visited the East Branch previously, at least as early as 1855.
- 1879 – Theodore Roosevelt ascended Katahdin on Aug. 29 with cousin W. Emlen Roosevelt, tutor Arthur H. Cutler, and guides William W. Sewall and Wilmot Dow, probably via the Lang and Jones path.
- 1880s (approx.) – Israel Robar built his camp at the confluence of Robar Brook with the Wassataquoik and welcomed hikers into the 1890s.
- 1881 – Charles E. Hamlin climbed Katahdin via the Wassataquoik in the company of Marcus Keep and George H. Witherle.
- 1881 – Hunt's Farm was purchased by Simon B. Gates and a new house was erected. C. R. Patterson built Lunksoos Camps two miles north at the Dacey Farm site.
- 1883 – Operations by Foster J. Tracey and Hugh Love commenced on the Wassataquoik (Oct. 16, 1883). The plan was for most cutting to be in T4R9 inside the current Baxter State Park. It is not known if the great fire of 1884 altered this, possibly encouraging timber removal farther to the east. Dacey Dam probably built at about this time. Probably also the Halfway House, aka Parker House.
- 1883 – Cyclone blew down much of the timber from Deasey Mountain west (Nov. 12, 1883).
- 1883 – Old City camps were built (jct. of Pogy Brook with the Wassataquoik). Also Russell camp (where New City camp was later located) and Bell camp (jct. of South Branch with the Wassataquoik).
- 1884 – A major Wassataquoik fire started June 29, 1884 at Norway Falls, and burned until July 3, covering 22,000 acres in all. The camps and dams were later all rebuilt.
- 1885 – Tracey and Love trail to north peaks was cut.
- 1886 – AMC reconnaissance to Katahdin from the east.
- 1887 – AMC held their summer outing at Katahdin Lake and Chimney Pond. Clarence Peavey cut a trail from Upper Katahdin Crossing to Katahdin Lake (the "Appalachian Trail"), and supporting trails up into the Great Basin and surroundings.
- 1891 – The Tracey and Love operations ceased, and logging in T4R9 inside Baxter State Park was taken up by Fred W. Ayer and Col. Luther B. Rogers. Their headquarters was at the Patterson Place, aka the East Branch House, at the site of the current Lunksoos Camps.
- 1892 – Lumber road and McLeod camp built on the South Branch of the Wassataquoik inside Baxter State Park.
- 1893 – Robar Dam built.
- 1894 – Bangor and Aroostook Railroad extended to Stacyville.
- 1895 – Rogers built a sporting camp at the current Lunksoos Camps site.
- 1896 – M. M. Tracey and J. Cushman opened the second sporting camp at Katahdin Lake.

- 1897 (approx.) – Two-story camp was built at Old City by Rogers.
- 1900 – New England Botanical Club camp was held at Chimney Pond. The group included botanist Merritt L. Fernald.
- 1900 – J. Cushman takes over Katahdin Lake camp from M. M. Tracey.
- 1901 – Horn's Club of Boston camp was held at Chimney Pond.
- 1901 – The Ayer and Rogers operations ceased, and new operations by Katahdin Pulp and Paper Co. under Nathaniel M. Jones began.
- 1903 – A second major fire burned from June 2 until June 9, covering 84,480 acres in all including most of the Wassataquoik valley.
- 1903 – New City Camps was built by KP&P on site of the Russell Camps which had been destroyed by the fire.
- 1903 (approx.) – Nathaniel Jones of KP&P ceased operations.
- 1905 (approx.) – Caribou disappeared from the mountain.
- 1908 – Lunksoos camps were burned; they were rebuilt in 1910.
- 1910 – Katahdin Pulp and Paper recommenced cutting pulpwood for the first time in T4R9 under Edward B. Draper.
- 1910 (approx.) – Wassataquoik Lake, Dacey, and Turner Pond dams were rebuilt. New dams were built at Mullen Brook, the Wassataquoik Middle Branch, and on the Katahdin north slope. A new Tip-Top Camp was built on the northwest spur of Katahdin, as was Mountain Camp on the upper Wassataquoik. Half-Way Camps (aka Parker House, near lower Katahdin Crossing) and New City Camps were rebuilt.
- 1912 – Half-Way Camps were flooded out by an ice jam.
- 1912-13 – Draper cleared Katahdin Brook for driving.
- 1914 – Draper of KP&P ceased operations.
- 1916 – AMC held another August Camp at Katahdin Lake.
- 1919 – Dacey Dam washed out.
- 1920 – Percival Baxter visited Katahdin from Lunksoos Camp.
- 1920s and 1930s (approx.) – William Tracy brought guests to Russell Pond via the Robar Brook.
- 1923 (approx.) – Roaring Brook road extended for automobiles to Roaring Brook.
- 1929 – Deasey Mountain fire lookout was built.